

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 09312 01 OF 02 041249Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AF-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

OMB-01 SAJ-01 /130 W

----- 130291

O 041123Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2847

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 09312 01 OF 02 041249Z

DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 9312

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - SEPTEMBER 4, 1973

GENERAL

1. KHMER ATTENTION THIS WEEK WAS FOCUSED ON NEARBY KOMPONG CHAM, WHERE THE KI PURSUED A LARGE SCALE EFFORT TO TAKE THIS KEY PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, AND ON FARAWAY ALGIERS, WHERE SIHANOUK BEGAN A NEW OFFENSIVE TO REMOVE THE GKR FROM INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. THE SITUATION IN KOMPONG CHAM REMAINED PRECARIOUS DESPITE THE ARRIVAL OF ARMY AND NAVAL REINFORCEMENTS FROM PHNOM PENH. SIHANOUK MADE A TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO ALGIERS FOR THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHILE THE GKR MOUNTED A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING A PRESS CONFERENCE BY LON NOL, TO BLOCK HIS MARCH TOWARD THE UN. ROUTE 5 WAS REOPENED TO DOMESTIC RICE SUPPLIES AND JAPAN APPARENTLY AGREED TO SUPPLY 5,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE TO THE GKR.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE JANUARY PRESIDENT LON NOL ADDED HIS VOICE TO THE CHORUS OF OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PRESS COMMENTARY DENOUNCING SIHANOUK
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PAGE 03 PHNOM 09312 01 OF 02 041249Z

FOR HIS COLLABORATION WITH VC/NVA AGGRESSION. LON NOL PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS UPON SIHANOUK'S STATEMENT TO ORIANA FALLACI THAT HE IS STRUGGLING TO MAKE CAMBODIA A COMMUNIST COUNTRY. LON NOL'S REMARKS CLIMAXED A TWO-WEEK LONG ANTI-SIHANOUK CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAS BEEN DIRECTED LARGELY AT INTERNATIONAL OPINION IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE EXPECTED SEATING OF THE GRUNK DELEGATION BY THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

3. AS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, LON NOL LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS NO LONGER A MATTER OF MAJOR INTEREST TO THE GKR. HE DECLARED THAT SINCE THE AGGRESSORS HAD RESPONDED IN BAD FAITH TO THE GKR SIX-POINT PEACE PROPOSAL HIS GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO QUOTE DRIVE OUT THE INVADERS BY FORCE OF ARMS, TO DEFEND OUR INDEPENDENCE, AND OBTAIN PEACE, OUR FINAL OBJECTIVE UNQUOTE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SIX-POINT PROPOSAL IS STILL VALID. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THE MARSHAL SAID THAT HIS HEALTH IS IMPROVING AND THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

4. THE FANK, BY AN ORDINANCE OF AUGUST 27, HAS INSTITUTED A SYSTEM OF HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY RETROACTIVE TO JULY 1, 1973. A BONUS OF 1,500 RIELS PER MONTH WILL BE PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL RESERVE, REGIONAL INTERVENTION UNITS, AND SOME AIR FORCE AND NAVY PERSONNEL, THUS PROVIDING A MUCH NEEDED INCENTIVE TO THOSE TROOPS WHO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

5. AMBASSADOR THOUTCH VUTTHI PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AS GKR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN ON AUGUST 23. VUTTHI WAS FORMERLY KHMER AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA. OUNG HEAM, THE NEW GKR AMBASSADOR TO JAKARTA, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON AUGUST 29.

6. DOUC RASY, KHMER AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN, HAS RECEIVED AGREEMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS. HE WILL OCCUPY THE TWO POSTS SIMULTANEOUSLY, WITH RESIDENCE IN LONDON.

GRUNK/FUNK

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PAGE 04 PHNOM 09312 01 OF 02 041249Z

7. SIHANOUK ARRIVED IN ALGIERS ON SEPTEMBER 3 TO ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE (HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, SARIN CHHAK, ARRIVED IN ALGIERS AUGUST 27). IN A STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT THE PRINCE PRAISED THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS FOR SEATING THE GRUNK AND PRG AND DECLARED THAT THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA IS MORE ALINVE THAN EVER DESPITE THE MARCH 18, 1970 COUP D'ETAT. SIHANOUK OCCUPIED HIS LAST FEW DAYS IN PEKING WITH INTERVIEWS TO UPI AND AFP AND A DIATRIBE REAFFIRMING GRUNK/FUNK REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE, CASTIGATING WOULD-BE MEDIATORS, THREATENING GKR TRAITORS WITH HANGING, AND PROMISING TO FIGHT TO TOTAL LIBERATION.

8. SIHANOUK TOLD UPI THAT THE CHINESE WOULD PAY FOR RESUMED NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMS SHIPMENTS, AND REITERATED

THAT THE ARMS WOULD COME FROM STOCKS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
HE ELABORATED IN A SUBSEQUENT AFP INTERVIEW THAT PART OF
THE ARMS ARE IN USE FOR CURRENT FIGHTING AND THE REST
ARE BEING STOCKPILED FOR A DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE AGAINST
PHNOM PENH.

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

9. HSINHUA CARRIED AN AKI REPORT OF AN AUGUST 28
COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION BY GRUNK AND THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN.

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 09312 02 OF 02 041400Z

40

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AF-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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OMB-01 SAJ-01 /130 W

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O 041123Z SEP 73

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AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 09312 02 OF 02 041400Z

CINCUSARPAC
DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 9312

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

10. AMEMBASSY CANBERRA REPORTED THAT A GRUNK DELEGATION WILL VISIT AUSTRALIA THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2. VAN PINY, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER AND NGO PIN, US-EDUCATED ENGINEER AND SON-IN-LAW OF NORODOM PHURISSARA, WILL MAKE UP THE DELEGATION.

11. AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM NOTED SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS THAT GRUNK IS ABOUT TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN THE SWEDISH CAPITAL. ISOUP GHANTY, FORMER GRUNK CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN ALBANIA, AND HIS WIFE ARE IN STOCKHOLM TO RUN THE OFFICE WHICH THE PRESS NOTES IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK'S REGIME.

ECONOMIC

12. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY TELLS US THAT THE GOJ IS PREPARING TO RELEASE \$1.2 MILLION TO THE GKR WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR THE PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 5,000 M/T OF RICE IN JAPAN. THIS LONG AWAITED DONATION IS CRITICAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE RICE STOCKS IN

CAMBODIA DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN OCTOBER AND EARLY DECEMBER WHEN THE FIRST U.S. RICE SHIPMENTS ARE EXPECTED.

13. AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 21,599 M/T OF RICE WAS STORED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 09312 02 OF 02 041400Z

IN PHNOM PENH AND KOMPONG SOM WAREHOUSES. THIS RICE AND 6,600 M/T OF RICE LEFT TO ARRIVE FROM THE LATEST PURCHASES IN THAILAND SHOULD MEET CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS FOR PHNOM PENH AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES FOR ABOUT FORTY-NINE DAYS. APART FROM THE 5,000 M/T OF RICE NOW TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM JAPAN THERE ARE NO OTHER FIRM SOURCES OF SUPPLY UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER. THE BALANCE OF THE GKR RICE REQUIREMENT DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WILL HAVE TO BE MET FROM THAILAND, BUT THUS FAR THE THAIS HAVE NOT GIVEN FIRM ASSURANCE THAT RICE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

MILITARY

14. THE SITUATION AT KOMPONG CHAM HAS DETERIORATED RAPIDLY. AN INCREASE IN ENEMY GROUND AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS HAS FORCE FANK TO WITHDRAW AND CONTRACT ITS DEFENSE PERIMETER TO WITHIN 1 KM OF THE CITY. THE AIRFIELD AND FANK FORCES DEFENDING MAY NOW HAVE BEEN ISOLATED FROM THE CITY. DESPITE THE ARRIVAL OF FANK REINFORCEMENTS, TO INCLUDE FIRE SUPPORT VESSELS FROM PHNOM PENH, AND INCREASED AIR INTERVENTION, THE ENEMY CONTINUES HIS WELL PLANNED ASSAULT AGAINST THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL.

15. ON SEPT. FANK FORCES REGAINED CONTROL OVER A 2 KM SEGMENT OF RTE 4, CUT SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU ON AUGUST 26. ON THE SAME DAY ENEMY FORCES RENEWED PRESSURE ALONG RTE 4 NEARER PHNOM PENH, AND CONTROL ABOUT 1 KM OF THE HIGHWAY IN THE VICINITY OF ANG SNOUL. ARTILLERY AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS ARE SUPPORTING FANK EFFORTS TO RETAKE THE ENEMY-HELD 1 KM.

16. COMBAT ACTIVITY INCREASED SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH WHERE A SEESAW BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF RTE 201 CONTINUES. INSURGENT FORCES HOLD ABOUT 1 KM OF THE ROAD EAST OF KANTUOT VILLAGE. SMALLER HARASSING ACTIONS ARE TAKING PLACE ELSEWHERE ALONG THE ROUTE. THIRD DIVISION ELEMENTS CONTAINED THE ENEMY IN THIS AREA AND PREVENTED THEM FROM PENETRATING THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHERN DEFENSE LINE. FURTHER EAST SMALL SCALE ENEMY ACTIONS CONTINUE ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER.
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PAGE 04 PHNOM 09312 02 OF 02 041400Z

17. NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH FRIENDLY SWEEP OPERATIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO CLEAR THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG OF SUSPECTED ENEMY POSITIONS. NO SIGNIFICANT ENGAGEMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. RENEWED INSURGENT INITIATIVES NEAR VIHEAR SUOR COULD PORTEND MORE SERIOUS ATTACKS SHORTLY.

18. RTE 5 REOPENED TO CONVOY TRAFFIC AUGUST 30. THE ROAD HAD BEEN CLOSED SINCE AUGUST 25. INSURGENT FORCES REMAIN IN POSITIONS NEAR THE ROAD AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO RENEW INTERDICTION EFFORTS.
SWANK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS SWANK
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005